

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on February 12, 2004, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 44, 60, 64, 68, 72, 77, 81, and 83 are amended, no claims are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 44, 45, and 60-83 remain pending in this application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant submitted Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and a 1449 Form on January 13, 2004. Applicant respectfully requests that initialed copies of the 1449 Forms be returned to Applicants' Representatives to indicate that the cited references have been considered by the Examiner.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 40, 45, and 60-83 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

The rejection states that “the new claim term ‘similar’ considered along with all of the other claim limitations and in light of the specification injects an irresolvable ambiguity into the scope of the claim that renders the claim indefinite.” The pending Office Action further attempts to quote the specification by stating that the layer 16 of titanium or titanium alloy proximate to the silicon is converted to titanium silicide. Page 9, lines 12-13 states that “the titanium *in* the layer 16 of titanium or titanium alloy proximate to the silicon is converted to titanium silicide.”

Applicant has amended selected claims to more clearly state the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Support for the amendments are found in the specification. For example, in one embodiment, as stated in the specification on page 9, lines 12-13, a portion of titanium in the layer 16 at the interface between layer 16 and the silicon is converted to a titanium silicide contact. Page 6, lines 2-3 further states that “*a portion* of the layer 16 is formed as a low resistance device contact 18 of titanium silicide.” Applicant respectfully submits that one of ordinary skill in the art, having the benefit of the present specification, will recognize that

one embodiment would leave a portion of the layer 16 remaining following interaction at the interface between layer 16 and the silicon.

Claims 44, 60, 64, 68, 72, 77, 81, and 83 as amended include a titanium silicide contact formed from interaction between the layer and the bottom of the contact hole, wherein a portion of the layer of titanium alloy remains in the bottom following the interaction. Applicant is unable to find these features in the cited documents, e.g. Honeycutt.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested. Applicant further submits that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance over the previously cited Honeycutt reference.



Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6944 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

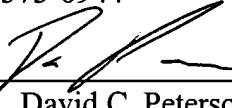
If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date 5-11-04

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 12th day of May, 2004.

Name Amy Mariarty

Signature Amy T